

United States Patent Application

John Nixon

Disclosure document

No. 505667

Dated Feb 20, 2002.

SAFETY LIGHTING FOR VEHICLE OUTSIDE MIRRORS

ABSTRACT

A method of signaling vehicle operation by using lamp assemblies on the left and right outside rear view mirror housings, to show Running, Clearance, Braking and Hazard conditions and change of steering direction. The lamp assemblies are mounted on a molded neoprene base which is also formed to provide a tubular bumper for physical protection of the lenses and to give an alarm signal. The lamps, each consist of four light emitting diodes (L.E.D.'s) in keyed plug in assemblies, are located on the rear and on the underside rearwards of the mirror housings. In the preferred form of the invention, the change in steering direction is indicated by switches mounted on the steering column and actuated by an operator on the steering wheel. The control of the indicating lamps is by solid state integrated circuitry located in a central box. The running-clearance lamp is located at the rear of each housing and lit when the vehicle ignition is on. Four directional lamps, located on the underside of each housing are controlled by the steering direction switch, the rear lamp lights as the steering wheel is turned a few degrees from the straight ahead position and remains on until returned, indicating a possible lane change. Further turning lights the second followed by the third and the fourth in a timed sequence, then switches off. This repeats until reset by a vehicle turn signal in the opposite direction or over-ridden by a braking or a hazard condition or return to the straight ahead position. A braking signal will cause the lights on each mirror housing to stay on steady and a hazard condition will cause all lights to flash.